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Francis, J. M.
An address

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REASONS FOR NATIONAL GRATITUDE.

AN ADDRESS,

DELIVERED

AT ATHENS, GREECE,

on

THANKSGIVING DAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1871.

By Hon. JOHN M. FRANCIS

United States Minister to Greece.

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Athens.

Press of «L'Indépendance Hellénique.»

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CORRESPONDENCE

Sir,

The undersigned American residents at Athens and other personal friends, take this method of expressing our hearty gratitude for the patriotic and timely Address that has helped to make to-day's Thanksgiving an occasion long to be remembered. Wishing that the good words we have heard to-day may have a permanent record, and that our friends at home and in Athens may share with us in the pleasure and profit of this Graeco-American Festival, we earnestly solicit a copy of your Address for publication.

With the highest esteem,

Yours Very Truly,

A. W. Zumpt.
P. V. Constandas.
Edward North.
M. D. Kalopathakes.
Byron C. Smith.
A. Ioannides.
D. Ioannides.
X. P. Constantinides.
Edward Masson.
Photius Fisk.
George Constantine.
D. Z. Sakellarios.
D. B. English.
Ph. Paraskevaides.
P. G. Eleutheriades.
P. Xanthakis.
Demetrius Constantine.

To His Excellency, Hon. John M. Francis,
United States Minister to Greece.

Legation of the United States,

Athens, December 1, 1871.

Gentlemen,

Your letter of yesterday's date places, I fear, too high an estimation upon my address on the occasion of our American Thanksgiving yesterday. But if you think that its publication, as suggested, may do good, the manuscript is cheerfully placed at your disposal.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Sincerely Yours,

John M. Francis.

To Prof. A. W. Zumpt,
Prof. Edward Masson,
Hon. P. V. Constandas,
Rev. Photius Fisk,
Prof. Edward North,
Rev. George Constantine,
Dr. M. D. Kalopathakes,
Rev. D. Z. Sakellarios, and others.

THANKSKIVING ADDRESS.

Thanksgiving! Welcome the day. It revives recollections of our American homes and all their cherished associations. It points the moral of our Christian civilization. It teaches the lesson of obligation to the Almighty for His beneficence. It appeals to national and individual gratitude. It impresses upon all hearts the common duty of dependent humanity to render fervent thanks to the Giver of all Good for the manifold blessings He has showered with unstinted profusion upon His children. Favored as we are in basket and store, protected as we have been from the invasion of painful disease and death, secured in comfort and afforded opportunities for useful labor and the peaceful pursuit of happiness, let us fervently praise God and be thankful.

There are comparatively few of us Americans in this distant foreign land. But we recognise the brotherhood of humanity, and in one sense a common kinship with all mankind. We are citizens of the world, endowed with the God-given faculties of reason, with immeasurable capacities for intellectual, moral and religious development. Of whatever clime or nativity, man occupies the highest platform of God's earthly creatures. He is master over all other living things.

They are subservient to his will. His position is commanding, and his duties are of commensurate magnitude. His field of labor is the world, his time for work at longest but brief, and the end is the same for all who live : «Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return.»

As Americans, we may on an occasion like the present talk freely about our country. The world certainly concedes to it greatness. We are not oblivious to its failings, but we think we may be proud of its achievements. It is comparatively a new country. We realise this the more fully as we see about us here on all sides memorials of man's artistic handiwork that date from a period two thousand years before the discovery of America. Our Republican government is less than ninety years old. It has had severe strains upon it. Its policy of perfect freedom to immigration has given us millions of people from other lands with no experience when they came to us in the duties of citizenship as recognized in the doctrine of self-government for the state. A large proportion of them were ignorant of letters and established in habits and methods of living unfavorable to the development of the intelligence and moral capacity which such a government as our own requires. Well, my friends, we have endured this strain, great as it was, and have absorbed the foreign element into our body politic without impairing its strength or enfeebling its integrity. This in itself is a great achievement, and it has been effected so far with safety—though at times there were grave apprehensions of danger — by reason of the supremacy of the enlightened influence in our

country to remould, educate, and I may say elevate the masses of those who came to us from the old world. So far, then, our government has achieved a success that has helped great masses of over-crowded humanity from foreign lands, besides affording the largest opportunities—how well improved you all know—to the millions more born upon our own soil. Again, there was the tremendous strain of the late civil war upon our institutions. This was the severest test of all. I need not dilate upon that terrible tragedy, calamitous as it seemed in the beginning, sanguinary and terrible in its progress, but glorious and sublime in its conclusion. The nation waded through a sea of blood to the dry land. And how beautiful that land to-day, all refulgent with the bright light of freedom! Slavery, our national curse and sin, wiped out forever; the chains stricken off more than four millions of human beings who to our national shame had been held in involuntary servitude the most barbarous; a despised and subject race thus elevated to manhood and awarded the privileges of impartial citizenship and just equality before the law: oh, my friends, we may to-day and every day of our lives thank Almighty God for this sublime vindication of our free institutions. God be plaised for the victory, though so dear'y bought with hundreds of thousands of precious lives and thousands of millions of national treasure. The further test of incorporating the late slaves into the equal citizenship of the country is in the process of successful application. They are rapidly advancing in education, gradually triumphing over prejudice and in-

justice, and it is already demonstrated that from this source our institutions will be strengthened rather than endangered. Reflecting upon our national history the past ten years, we may fervently thank God that He gave us Abraham Lincoln; we may thank God that he gave us heroes to save our country from rebellion and emancipate it from sin and shame, though its blackest curse was washed out by so much precious blood. And now another strain our country has endured and triumphed over, as threatening perhaps as any that ever menaced it. It is that of official robbery and corruption. I have no hesitancy in pointing out the source of the evil here as I would expose and denounce stupendous criminality any where. Tammany Hall, controlling the Democratic party and wielding its agencies with the most unscrupulous energy, had disfranchised the state of New York in the Presidential election of 1868; it had enthroned a Governor in power by notorious, criminal fraud upon the elective franchise, and thus given over a great state to the tender mercies of practical mob law. It had at the seme time cast the electoral vote of the state against Gen. Grant by a like criminal proceeding. The people were not only disfranchised, but in their name a vote was rendered in direct opposition to their verdict. The conspirators have plundered the people of New York city by the direct and flagrant robbery of more than twenty millions of dollars during the past three years. The proof of this is overwhelming and conclusive. Their audacious and stupendous thieving was exposed; the public mind was aroused to the highest pitch

of indignation. The determination was avowed to overthrow and punish the villains The election on the 7th of this month has driven the nails firmly in the coffin of Tammany. Such a splendid popular uprising has seldom been witnessed in any country. The Republicans and Democratic Reformers carry the city of New York, hitherto Democratic by 40,000 to 50,000 majority, (more than half this majority being fraudulent,) by a preponderance of more than 20,000 votes. The Republicans elect their state ticket, for the first time since 1866, by a majority of more than 20,000. During the intervening period until now Tammany has had its brigand grip upon the throats of the people. This, then, is a triumph in contrast with which a mere party success sinks into insignificance; it is a triumph of free institutions over fraud and robbery. It is the crushing out of the most dangerous evil the Republic has ever confronted; it is a vindication of the integrity of the ballot-box which is the palladium of the liberties of America; it is the triumphant assertion of the doctrine that the rule of the people in America furnishes a reliable guaranty for the maintenance of order and liberty, and the overthrow of fraud and criminal conspiracy against the state. And to-day we thank God for this peaceful victory of righteousness which will go far to purify the whole political system of our beloved country.

My friends, great disasters as you know have befallen important sections of the United States during the past season; but even these have had their compensations in stirring the hearts of our people, and those

of foreign lands, also, to acts of glorious philanthropy. The lesson will tell upon the world in teaching men the highest satisfaction of doing good, and in inspiring generous desires and aspirations where sordid selfishness was gaining the ascendency. Let us be thankful for this grand demonstration of the world's benevolence, and for the noble lesson evolved even from direst calamity.

Let us render thanks, then, for the goodly heritage of free and enlightened America; for the Christian civilization that has taken deep root in our American soil; for the illimitable resources of our country which afford opportunities for the poorest not only to gain a comfortable livelihood, but with health and judicious industrial application to win an honorable competence; for our blessed school privileges free to all, and our thrice blessed religious opportunities and freedom that recognise the supremacy of conscience and individual choice, and present the highest possible incentives for the development of the true Christian character.

We may also on this occasion reverently express our gratitude for the National Thanksgiving Day of the United States. Previous to the war each state appointed a Thanksgiving Day for itself. It sometimes happened that the authorities of a state omitted this duty altogether. Now the day is national by virtue of the President's Proclamation, and the Governors of states issue their Thanksgiving Proclamations to correspond with the President's, so that one and the same day is observed for the purpose in every commonwealth of the United States. This embraces our whole

people; it arouses religious inspirations in support of national solidarity; it embraces the Union as a whole instead of especial parts separately. It even reaches American circles in distant foreign lands where different states are represented, as in our little circle here to-day. Thus we see that potent religious influence which goes out from the observance of this day tends to strengthen the bonds of our common Union.— Surely this is among the most important compensations for our sanguinary civil conflict. On a day like this it inspires each one of us to exclaim with our own Whittier:

«Land of the forest and the rock,
Of dark blue lake and mighty river,
Of mountains reared aloft to mock
The storm's career, the lightning's shock,
My own dear land forever!»

But while our thoughts to-day so largely dwell upon our goodly American homes and the dear friends with whom we now commune in the spirit of devoted affection, let us not forget the old world with its teeming millions of human beings to whom we are allied as members in common of the great family of man. We are distinctly identified as children of one great Father of all and over all. We have an intense interest in their welfare, and a large proportion of those present to-day left their bright and comfortable American homes to labor for the good of these people here.

Let us be charitable concerning their faults and ever appreciative of their virtues. Let us remember that our own and the world's civilization obtained the elements of its vitality from this classic land.

«When man would do a deed of worth
He points to Greece, and turns to tread,
So sanction'd, on the tyrant's head:
He looks to her, and rushes on
Where life is lost, or freedon won.»

Bear in mind that density of population is unfavorable to expansion and progress; with limited resources advancement is naturally checked, while the law of increasing population is certainly diminishing individual opportunities. This fact cannot be changed by governments, as is illustrated by Switzerland whose political system is even more Democratic than our own: and yet the over-crowded and toiling masses of that country of sublime national scenery and of historic grandeur are very poor; the land does not afford the resources for improvement in this respect. There are in the old world different forms of government from our own. We say our Republican system is best adapted to the United States; but it would be arrogant assumption on our part to assert with equal positiveness that similar institutions would work just as well here. The circumstances and condition of the people must determine the question of the best form of government for them. But this general fact in respect

to nearly all Europe is most encouraging to the friends of humanity. Liberal policies are gradually obtaining supremacy. The spirit of enlightened liberty is making steady progress. Educational interests are fostered, and facilities are every year extended more and more to afford school privileges to the great masses. This is true of Greece as well as other kingdoms. In Germany universal education is enforced. As the people become properly educated so will they advance in national and individual prosperity.

I shall not attempt to instruct you as to affairs in this kingdom; that would be presumptuous. Upon this subject I look to you for instruction. This much, however, I may say: This land is hallowed to us by its classic history and sublime traditions. We as Americans sympathise with every effort of its government to elevate the manhood of its people, to inspire them with the spirit of progress, to infuse into their hearts the feeling of true nationality, well-ordered liberty, and generous, enlightened patriotism. This is not old Greece in respect to territorial limits; it is circumscribed and very much narrowed down. But Greece as we see it to-day has large opportunities for progress in agriculture and the practical arts, and to gradually acquire by proper industrial effort what was so long ago lost by the disastrous issue of wars. I say, then, give to this people encouragement rather than abuse; remind them of faults in the spirit of charity and true friendship; impress upon their minds the value and necessity of persistent and well-directed industry; teach them the true way of individual and national advancement. Their

κηρύξεως ὁ αἰδέσιμος ἱεροκήρυξ Γεώργιος Κωνσταντίνου προσηυχήθη· εἶτα ἐψάλη ὕμνος· κατόπιν ἀνέγνωσεν ὁ Κ. Κωνσταντίνου ἐκ τῆς Ἱερᾶς Γραφῆς ὁ δὲ καθηγητὴς Edward North, of Hamilton College New York προσέφερε τὴν ἐπίσημον τῆς εὐχαριστίας εὐχήν· μετ᾽αὐτὴν δὲ καὶ ἕτερος ἐψάλη ὕμνος, καὶ μετὰ τὸν δεύτερον ὕμνον ἀπήγγειλεν ὁ Κ. Francis ἀγγλιστὶ τὴν κατωτέρω καταχωριζομένην ὁμιλίαν. Μετὰ δὲ τὸ πέρας τῆς ὁμιλίας ἐψάλη ὑπὸ πάντων τῶν παρεστώτων ὁ ἑπόμενος ἐθνικὸς ὕμνος·

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing:
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrim's pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring!

My native country thee—
Land of the noble free—
Thy name I love:
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song!
Let mortal tongue awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,—
The sound prolong!

Our father's God! to thee
Author of liberty,
To thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by thy might,
Great God, our King!

Μετὰ δὲ τὸν ὡραῖον τοῦτον ὕμνον οἱ παρευρεθέντες μετέβησαν εἰς τὴν αἴθουσαν ἔνθα ἐπὶ τραπέζης λιτῆς ἦσαν παρατεθειμένα τὰ ἀγαθὰ τῆς γῆς, καρποὶ ἡδεῖς, καὶ οἶνος ἀμπέλου γλυκὺς, τὴν καρδίαν πάντων εὐφραίνων, ὅταν μετρίως τὸν λάρυγγα αὐτῶν ποτίζῃ. Εἶτα δὲ ἀπῆλθον πάντες μὲ φαιδρὰν τὴν ὄψιν καὶ γαλήνιον τὴν ψυχὴν, ἕκαστος εἰς τὰ ἴδια, εὐτυχὴς ὡς εἶναι εὐτυχὴς πάντοτε ἐκεῖνος τοῦ ὁποίου τὰ χείλη δὲν κρύπτουσιν ἐνώπιον Θεοῦ καὶ ἀνθρώπων, ἐνώπιον ἰσχυρῶν καὶ ἀσθενῶν, τὴν ἀλήθειαν καὶ τῆς καρδίας αὐτοῦ τὴν ἱερὰν φωνήν.

. . . . . .

Ἀλλὰ πῶς ἐπεκράτησεν ἡ χριστιανικὴ αὕτη συνήθεια τῆς κατ' ἔτος, κατ' αὐτὴν τὴν ἐποχήν, ἀπονομῆς ἐθνικῆς πρὸς τὸν Θεὸν εὐχαριστίας; Ἄκουσον, ἀγαθὲ ἀναγνῶστα.

Ἐπὶ αἰῶνας ἀναρίθμους ἐπὶ τῆς ἀπεράντου ἐκείνης χώρας, ἡ ὁποία σήμερον καλεῖται *Δημοκρατία τῶν Ἡνωμένων Πολιτειῶν*, ἐπλανῶντο πλάσματα ἀνθρώπινα, τῶν ὁποίων τὸ ὄμμα τῆς ἐννόμου ἐλευθερίας τὸ φῶς δὲν εἶχε ποτὲ πλήξει, ἀλλ' ἔζων ἐν ἐλευθερίᾳ ἀγρίᾳ, ὡς τῶν δρυμώνων οἱ κροταλίαι, ὡς τῆς ἐρήμου ὁ πάνθηρ. Ἀπὸ τῶν κόλπων τέλος μητρὸς κραταιᾶς, ἀπὸ τῶν κόλπων τῆς Ἀλβιόνης, ἣν τυράννων βασιλέων ὁ βαρὺς ἐπίεζε ποῦς, ἐξῆλθον τῆς ἀγρίας ἐκείνης παρθένου γῆς οἱ νέοι οἰκήτορες, οἱ ὁποῖοι ἔμελλόν ποτε νὰ γίνωσι τοῦ ἀληθοῦς πολιτισμοῦ τῶν καθ' ἡμᾶς χρόνων αἱ φωτεινότεραι δᾷδες. Ἤθελον οἱ

ἄνδρες ἐκεῖνοι νὰ λατρεύωσιν ἐν τῇ ἰδίᾳ γῇ τὸν Θεόν των ὡς ἡ ἡ συνείδησις αὐτῶν τοῖς ἐπέταττεν· ἀλλ' οἱ μωροὶ τύραννοι, θείᾳ τινὶ μοίρᾳ, οὔτε αὐτὴν τὴν πρώτην ἐλευθερίαν τοῖς ἐπέτρεπον. Ὅπως τὴν πυρὰν καὶ τὰ μαρτύρια ἐκφύγωσιν, ὅπως ἐλεύθεροι τὰς χεῖρας αὐτῶν πρὸς τὸν Οὐράνιον ἀνατείνωσι Πατέρα, ἐζήτησαν τότε τὰ βαθύσκια ἄλση, τὰς ὑψικόμους δρῦς, τὰ ἔρημα πεδία τῆς νέας γῆς. 105 ἦσαν οἱ πρῶτοι ἐξ Ἀγγλίας ἄποικοι οἱ τὴν Πόλιν τοῦ Ἰακώβου (Jamestown) συνοικήσαντες κατὰ τὸ 1607. Ἱερὸν λοιπὸν κυρίως αἴσθημα ὑπὲρ λατρείας ἐλευθέρας παρώρμησε τοὺς 105 ὅπως μεταβῶσιν εἰς τὴν νέαν γῆν εἰς ἐποχὴν καθ' ἣν σκάφη ὠκύπλοα μὲ σιδηρὰς πλευράς, διὰ πυρὸς καὶ ἀτμοῦ ἐλαυνόμενα, δὲν διέσχιζον εἰσέτι τοῦ ἀπεράντου ὠκεανοῦ τὰ λευκοκύμονα στέρνα. Οἱ 105 ἐκεῖνοι καὶ οἱ μετ' αὐτοὺς ἄποικοι εὑρόντες γῆν ἀγαθὴν ὑπὸ ἀγρίαν μορφήν, ἐπότισαν αὐτὴν μὲ θρόμβους ἀφθόνους ἱδρῶτος καὶ αἵματος. Ἐκείνη δ' εὐγνωμόνως τοῖς ἀνταπέδιδε στάχεις χρυσοὺς μεστοὺς καρποῦ καὶ πᾶν ἀγαθόν, τὸ ὁποῖον οἱ κόλποι της ἠδύναντο νὰ παράσχωσι. *Τῆς εἰρήνης τὸ φίλτρον καὶ ἡ τῶν ἄλλων τεχνῶν μήτηρ καὶ τροφὸς γεωργία* τὴν πιναρὰν καὶ ἀγρίαν τῆς νέας γῆς κόμην ταχέως ἤρξατο καθαίρουσα. Ὅταν δὲ ἡ γῆ εὐγνώμων μυριοπλάσιον εἰς τὰ νέα αὐτῆς τέκνα ἀνταπέδιδε τὸ σπέρμα ὅπερ τῇ ἐνεπιστεύοντο, ὅταν τὰ ἐλεύθερα ταῦτα τέκνα τὸ ἔριον καὶ τὸν βάμβακα, τὸν χόρτον καὶ τὸν σῖτον συνεκόμιζον, ἠσθάνοντο τὴν ἀνάγκην νὰ εὐχαριστήσωσι τῷ Θεῷ ἐπὶ τῇ συγκομιδῇ τῶν καρπῶν τῆς γῆς. Καὶ τὴν ἀνάγκην ταύτην τῆς εὐχαριστίας καὶ προσευχῆς μόνον ἐλεύθερος ἀνὴρ αἰσθάνεται· μόνον ἐκεῖνος αἰσθάνεται, ὁ ὁποῖος τὴν εὐτυχίαν ζητεῖ πρῶτον καὶ κυρίως ἐν τῇ ἐκπληρώσει τῶν καθηκόντων αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐν τῇ ἀναπαύσει τῆς συνειδήσεώς του· ἐκεῖνος, ὁ ὁποῖος ἐγείρει ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτοῦ ναόν, οὗ τὰ τείχη εἶναι ὑψηλότερα τῶν τειχῶν τοῦ ναοῦ τοῦ Σολομῶντος καὶ στερεώτερα τοῦ ναοῦ τοῦ μονάρχου ἐκείνου, ὁ ὁποῖος

ἀνέκραξε «Νενίκηκά σε Σολομών!» Βεβαίως δὲν δύναται νὰ αἰσθανθῇ τὴν ἀνάγκην, οὔτε τὴν δύναμιν, οὔτε τὴν ὠφέλειαν τῆς εὐχαριστίας καὶ προσευχῆς ἐκεῖνος, ὁ ὁποῖος προσεύχεται μόνον ἵνα τὸν βλέπωσιν ἢ ὁ ὁποῖος προσεύχεται πάντοτε μὲ χείλη ξένα, τὰ ὁποῖα πολλάκις ἂν ἡ Πολιτεία δὲν θρέψῃ, ἀρνεῖται καὶ αὐτὸς νὰ θρέψῃ, ἵνα ἐπὶ τέλους ὡς ἀνδράποδον εἴπῃ· «Ἂν δὲν ἔχω πίστιν καὶ ἂν δὲν προσεύχωμαι, πταίει ἡ Πολιτεία, πταίει ἡ Κυβέρνησις!» Ναί! μόνον ὁ ἀληθής, ἐλεύθερος πολίτης αἰσθάνεται τῆς προσευχῆς καὶ εὐχαριστίας τὴν ἀνάγκην. Ἀλλὰ πρὸ πάντων τὴν ἀνάγκην ταύτην αἰσθάνεται ἐκεῖνος, ὁ ὁποῖος βλέπει καὶ ἀριθμεῖ τὰς σταγόνας τοῦ καταπίπτοντος ὑετοῦ καὶ τὰς λευκὰς νιφάδας ἐπὶ τοῦ ἀγροῦ αὐτοῦ· ἐκεῖνος, ὁ ὁποῖος ἀνὰ πᾶσαν πρωΐαν ἐπὶ τῆς ἄκρας τοῦ στάχυος ὡς μαργαρίτην οὐράνιον βλέπει τὴν δρόσον ἐπικαθημένην· ἐκεῖνος ὁ ὁποῖος ἀνὰ πᾶσαν στιγμὴν τῆς θείας Προνοίας διακρίνει τὸν δάκτυλον καὶ τῆς εὐεργετικῆς τοῦ Πλάστου χειρὸς τὴν δύναμιν· ἐκεῖνος, ὁ ὁποῖος αἰσθάνεται ὅτι πᾶσαν ὥραν τοῦ ἔτους δι' αὐτὸν ὁ Οὐράνιος ἐποίησε Πατὴρ καὶ δι' αὐτὸν πᾶσαν σταγόνα δρόσου ἐκ τοῦ Οὐρανοῦ κατέπεμψεν· ἐκεῖνος, ὁ ὁποῖος καθ' ὅλας αὐτοῦ τὰς ἡμέρας εὑρίσκεται ἐν τῷ ἀγρῷ αὐτοῦ ἐνώπιον τοῦ Θεοῦ, τῆς ἰσχύος Αὐτοῦ καὶ τῆς ἀπείρου Αὐτοῦ ἀγαθότητος.

Οὕτω λοιπὸν ἀπὸ τῶν πρώτων ἐκείνων ἡμερῶν ἐπεκράτησεν ἡ ἁγία αὕτη συνήθεια τοῦ εὐχαριστεῖν τῷ Θεῷ ἐπὶ τῇ συγκομιδῇ τῶν καρπῶν τῆς γῆς· καὶ μέχρι τῆς ἡμέρας ταύτης ἐπικρατεῖ· καὶ ἐν ὅσῳ ἡ ἐλευθερία σκέπτει τὴν εὐδαίμονα ἐκείνην γῆν, οἱ πολῖται θέλουσι τηρεῖ τὴν ἐθνικὴν ταύτην συνήθειαν.

Ἂς εὐχηθῶμεν σήμερον αὐτοῖς καὶ ἡμεῖς ἵνα ἡ γῆ των ἀφθόνους τοῖς παρέχῃ πάντοτε τῆς εἰρήνης καὶ τῆς ἐλευθερίας τοὺς καρπούς· ἂς εὐχηθῶμεν αὐτοῖς ὑπὸ τὴν σκέπην τῆς ἁγίας ἐλευθερίας νὰ ἐξακολουθήσωσι παρέχοντες ἑαυτοὺς εἰς τὰ ἔθνη καὶ τοὺς λαοὺς τῆς γῆς λαμπρὸν πρότυπον ἀνδρῶν «προτιμώντων πρὸ τοῦ

»ἐλαφροῦ ζυγοῦ δουλικῆς πομπῆς καὶ αὐτὴν τὴν σκληρὰν ἐλευθερίαν.» «Preferring hard liberty, before the easy yoke of servile pomp.»

[Ἐκ τοῦ ὑπ' ἀριθμὸν 12 φύλλου τῆς «Ἀμύνης» τῶν 19 Νοεμβρίου 1871]

ΟΜΙΛΙΑ ΤΟΥ Κ. FRANCIS

Πρεσβευτοῦ τῶν Ἡνωμένων τῆς Ἀμερικῆς Πολιτειῶν.

Ἡμέρα εὐχαριστίας! Ἡμέρα εὐπρόσδεκτος. Ἀναμιμνήσκει ἡμᾶς τὴν γενέθλιον γῆν, τὰς ἑστίας ἡμῶν καὶ πᾶν ὅ,τι προσφιλὲς ἐν αὐταῖς. Μαρτυρεῖ τὴν ἠθικὴν τοῦ χριστιανικοῦ ἡμῶν πολιτισμοῦ. Διδάσκει ἡμᾶς δίδαγμα ὑποχρεώσεως πρὸς τὸν Παντοδύναμον δι' ἃς ἐπεδαψιλεύσατο ἡμῖν εὐεργεσίας. Προκαλεῖται πρὸς ἐθνικὴν καὶ ἀτομικὴν εὐγνωμοσύνην. Ἐπιβάλλει πάσῃ καρδίᾳ τὸ καθῆκον τῆς μὴ αὐτάρκους ἀνθρωπότητος, νὰ ἀπονέμῃ ἐνθέρμους πρὸς τὸν Δοτῆρα παντὸς ἀγαθοῦ εὐχαριστίας διὰ τὰ παντοδαπὰ ἀγαθὰ ἅτινα μετ' ἀπείρου ἀφθονίας τοῖς αὐτοῦ τέκνοις ἐχορήγησε. Τυχόντες εὐνοϊκῆς συγκομιδῆς, ἀπηλλαγμένοι ἐπιδρομῆς νόσου στυγνῆς καὶ θανάτου, ἀπολαύοντες ἐν ἀσφαλείᾳ πάσης εὐκαιρίας πρὸς χρήσιμον ἐργασίαν καὶ ἐν εἰρήνῃ τὴν ἡμετέραν εὐτυχίαν διώκοντες, ὑμνήσωμεν τὸν Θεὸν καὶ ἀπὸ βάθους ψυχῆς εὐχαριστήσωμεν Αὐτῷ.

Ἐν τῇ ἀπωτάτῳ ταύτῃ ξένῃ γῇ ὑπάρχουσι σχετικῶς ὀλίγοι ἐξ ἡμῶν τῶν Ἀμερικανῶν. Ἀλλ' ἀναγνωρίζομεν τὴν ἀδελφότητα τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος καὶ κατά τινα λόγον τὴν κοινὴν ἡμῶν συγγένειαν πρὸς ἅπαν τὸ ἀνθρώπινον γένος. Εἴμεθα κοσμοπολῖται εὐμοιροῦντες τῆς Θείας τοῦ λόγου δυνάμεως, ἀπείρου δυνάμεως πρὸς πνευματικήν, ἠθικὴν καὶ θρησκευτικὴν ἀνάπτυξιν. Οἱουδήποτε κλίματος ἢ ἐθνότητος ὢν ὁ ἄνθρωπος κατέχει τὴν ὑπερτάτην βαθμίδα ἐν τοῖς ἐπὶ γῆς πλάσμασι τοῦ Θεοῦ. Εἶναι Κύριος παν-

τὸς ὄντος ἔχοντος ζωήν. Πᾶν ἔμψυχον ὑπείκει τῇ θελήσει Αὐτοῦ. Ἡ θέσις ἧς ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἠξιώθη εἶναι ὑπέροχος, τὰ δὲ καθήκοντα αὐτοῦ ἐπίσης ὑψηλὰ ὡς ἡ θέσις του. Πεδίον ἐργασίας ὑπάρχει αὐτῷ ὁ κόσμος, χρόνον δὲ πρὸς ἐργασίαν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ τούτῳ ἔχει βραχύν, ὅσον μακρὰ καὶ ἂν διανύσῃ ἔτη, τὸ δὲ τέλος αὐτοῦ εἶναι τὸ αὐτὸ τοῖς λοιποῖς πλάσμασι· «Γῆ εἶ καὶ εἰς γῆν ἀπελεύσῃ.»

Ὡς Ἀμερικανοί, δυνάμεθα ἐν καιρῷ οἷος ὁ παρὼν νὰ λαλήσωμεν ἐλευθέρως περὶ τῆς ἡμετέρας χώρας. Ὁ κόσμος βεβαίως δὲν ἀρνεῖται αὐτῇ μεγαλεῖον. Οὐδαμῶς τῶν ἀποτυχιῶν αὐτῆς ἐπιλανθανόμεθα, νομίζομεν ὅμως ὅτι δυνάμεθα νὰ σεμνυνώμεθα ἐφ' οἷς αὕτη διέπραξεν. Εἶναι σχετικῶς νέα χώρα. Τοῦτο δὲ πληρέστερον κατανοοῦμεν ὅταν στρέφοντες ἐνταῦθα περὶ ἡμᾶς αὐτοὺς τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς βλέπωμεν πανταχόθεν μνημεῖα τέχνης ἅτινα ἀνθρώπινοι κατειργάσαντο χεῖρες δισχίλια ὅλα ἔτη πρὸ τῆς ἀνακαλύψεως τῆς Ἀμερικῆς. Ἡ δημοκρατικὴ ἡμῶν κυβέρνησις ἀριθμεῖ μόλις βίον ἐννενήκοντα ἐνιαυτῶν. Πικρὰς ὑπέστη κατὰ τὸν χρόνον τοῦτον δοκιμασίας. Ἡ πολιτικὴ αὐτῆς, καθ' ἣν πλήρης ἐπιτρέπεται ἐλευθερία εἰς τὴν μετανάστευσιν, ἐπόρισεν ἡμῖν ἑκατομμύρια ἀνθρώπων ἐξ ἄλλων χωρῶν, οἵτινες καθ' ὃν πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἦλθον χρόνον ἠγνόουν τὰ τοῖς πολίταις ὑπὸ τῆς ἀρχῆς τῆς αὐτοδιοικησίας ἐπιβαλλόμενα καθήκοντα. Πάμπολλοι αὐτῶν ἦσαν ἀπαίδευτοι καὶ ἐντεθραμμένοι ἐν ἕξεσι καὶ τρόποις βίου ἀπάδουσι πρὸς τὴν διανοητικὴν καὶ ἠθικὴν ἀνάπτυξιν, ἣν ἀπαιτεῖ εἶδος πολιτεύματος, οἷον τὸ ἡμέτερον. Οὕτω, φίλοι μου, ἀπετολμήσαμεν τὴν μεγάλην ταύτην ἀπόπειραν καὶ ἀπερρόφησαμεν ἐντὸς τοῦ πολιτικοῦ ἡμῶν σώματος τὸ ξένον στοιχεῖον οὐδαμῶς ζητήσαντες νὰ ἐξασθενίσωμεν τὴν ἰσχὺν ἢ νὰ μειώσωμεν τὸν ἀριθμὸν αὐτοῦ. Τοῦτο, αὐτὸ καθ' ἑαυτό, εἶναι μέγα κατόρθωμα, ἐπετελέσθη δὲ μέχρι τοῦδε μετ' ἀσφαλείας— ἂν καὶ σπουδαῖοι ἐνίοτε φόβοι κινδύνου ὑπῆρχον— διὰ τὴν ὑπεροχὴν τῆς ἐπιρροῆς ἣν ἐξήσκησεν ἡ

ἡμετέρα πεφωτισμένη χώρα κατορθώσασα ν' ἀναπλάσῃ, νὰ ἐκπαιδεύσῃ καί, δύναμαι νὰ εἴπω, ν' ἀνυψώσῃ τὰ πλήθη τῶν ἐκ τοῦ παλαιοῦ κόσμου πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἐλθόντων. Ἡ ἡμετέρα λοιπὸν κυβέρνησις οὕτω πολιτευομένη ἀπεδείχθη ἱκανὴ νὰ παράσχῃ βοήθειαν μεγάλοις πλήθεσι χωρῶν ξένων λίαν πολυανδρουσῶν· προσέτι δὲ παρέσχεν εὐρύτατον στάδιον, ὡς καλῶς πάντες γινώσκετε, πολλοῖς ἔτι ἑκατομμυρίοις γεννηθεῖσιν ἐπὶ τοῦ ἰδίου ἡμῶν ἐδάφους.

Ἀλλὰ πλὴν τούτου ὑπέστησαν οἱ θεσμοὶ ἡμῶν τὰς φοβερὰς δοκιμασίας τοῦ τελευταίου ἐμφυλίου πολέμου. Ἦσαν δ' αὗται αἱ πικρόταται πασῶν τῶν δοκιμασιῶν. Δὲν εἶναι ἀνάγκη νὰ ἱστορήσω ἐν ἐκτάσει τὰ τοῦ φρικαλέου ἐκείνου δράματος, πλήρους συμφορῶν ἐν ἀρχῇ, αἱματηροῦ καὶ φρικώδους καθ' ὅλην αὐτοῦ τὴν διάρκειαν, ἀλλ' ἔνδοξον καὶ λαμπρὰν λαβόντος λύσιν. Τὸ ἔθνος διέπλευσε δι' ὠκεανοῦ αἵματος ὅπως ἀφίκηται εἰς γῆν ξηράν. Πόσον δὲ ὡραία φαίνεται ἡ γῆ αὕτη τὰ νῦν περιαστραπτομένη πᾶσα ὑπὸ τοῦ λαμπροῦ τῆς ἐλευθερίας φωτός! Ἡ δουλεία, τὸ ἐθνικὸν τοῦτο ἁμάρτημα, ἡ ἠθικὴ ἡμῶν αὕτη κατάρα, ἀπεσβέσθη ἐσαεί· αἱ ἁλύσεις αἱ συνέχουσαι κατηναγκασμένα ἐν δουλείᾳ βαρβάρῳ τέσσαρα ὅλα ἑκατομμύρια ἀνθρωπίνων ὄντων πρὸς ἐθνικὸν ἡμῶν ὄνειδος, συνετρίβησαν· οὕτω δὲ φυλὴ καταφρονουμένη καὶ ὑποτελὴς ἤρθη εἰς ἀνδρότητα καὶ ἠξιώθη πασῶν τῶν προνομιῶν καὶ τῆς δικαίας ἐνώπιον τοῦ νόμου ἰσότητος, ὡς οἱ πολῖται Ἀμερικανοί. Ὦ! φίλοι μου, δυνάμεθα σήμερον καὶ κατὰ πᾶσαν τοῦ βίου ἡμῶν ἡμέραν νὰ εὐχαριστῶμεν τῷ Παντοδυνάμῳ Θεῷ διὰ τὴν ὑψηλὴν ταύτην ἀμοιβὴν τῶν ἐλευθέρων ἡμῶν θεσμῶν. Αἰνετὸν εἴη τὸ ὄνομα Αὐτοῦ διὰ τὴν νίκην, καίτοι τόσον ἀκριβῶς ἀγορασθεῖσαν δι' ἑκατοστύων χιλιάδων θυμάτων καὶ χιλιάδων ἑκατομμυρίων ἐθνικοῦ ἀργυρίου.

Ἡ περαιτέρω ἀπόπειρα τῆς μεθ' ἡμῶν συσσωματώσεως τῶν μέχρις ἐσχάτων δούλων καὶ ἡ ἀνύψωσις αὐτῶν εἰς ἰσοπολιτείαν, ἐφαρμόζεται ἀπαύστως μετ' ἐπιτυχίας. Οἱ δοῦλοι ταχέως προσ-

δεύουσιν ἐν τῇ ἐκπαιδεύσει, θριαμβεύοντες βαθμηδὸν κατὰ πάσης προλήψεως καὶ ἀδικίας, καὶ καταφανὲς ἤδη ἐγένετο ὅτι μᾶλλον ἐκ τῆς πηγῆς ταύτης οἱ θεσμοὶ ἡμῶν θέλουσιν ἐνισχυθῆ ἢ κίνδυνόν τινα κινδυνεύσει. Ἀναμιμνησκόμενοι τῆς ἐθνικῆς ἡμῶν ἱστορίας τῶν δέκα τελευταίων ἐτῶν, ὀφείλομεν ἐνθέρμως νὰ εὐχαριστῶμεν τῷ Θεῷ ὅτι ἔδωκεν ἡμῖν τὸν Ἀβραὰμ Λίγκολν· ὀφείλομεν νὰ εὐχαριστήσωμεν τῷ Θεῷ ὅτι παρεσκεύασεν ἡμῖν ἥρωας ἵνα σώσωσι τὴν ἡμετέραν χώραν ἀπὸ τῆς στάσεως καὶ ἀπαλλάξωσιν αὐτὴν ἀπὸ τοῦ ἁμαρτήματος καὶ τοῦ ὀνείδους, καίτοι ἡ μελαντάτη αὐτῆς κατάρα ἀπηλείφθη δι' ἀφθονωτάτου πολυτίμου αἵματος. Ἀλλὰ καὶ ἑτέρας πάλιν δοκιμασίας ἡ χώρα ἡμῶν ἐπειράθη, καθ' ἧς καὶ αὖθις ἐθριάμβευσε, δοκιμασίας ὁμοίως ἴσως φοβερᾶς ὡς πᾶσα ἄλλη ἥτις ποτὲ ἐχείμασεν αὐτήν. Ἡ δοκιμασία αὕτη εἶναι ἡ τῶν δημοσίων χρημάτων ἁρπαγὴ καὶ ἡ διαφθορὰ δημοσίων λειτουργῶν. Οὐδαμῶς ὀκνῶ νὰ καταδείξω τὴν πηγὴν τοῦ κακοῦ ἐνταῦθα μετὰ τοῦ αὐτοῦ θάρρους μεθ' οὗ ἤθελον παραστήσει καὶ καταγγείλει πᾶσαν τοιαύτην περὶ τὸ ἔγκλημα σπουδὴν ὁπουδήποτε καὶ ἂν ἤθελον ἀπαντήσει αὐτήν. Τὸ Tammany Hall, δεσπόζον τῆς Δημοκρατικῆς μερίδος καὶ διευθῦνον τὰς δυνάμεις αὐτῆς διὰ τῆς μάλιστα ἀσυνειδήτου ἐνεργείας, ἐστέρησε τὴν Πολιτείαν τῆς Νέας Ὑόρκης κατὰ τὴν ἐκλογὴν τοῦ Προέδρου τὸ 1868 τοῦ ἐκλογικοῦ αὐτῆς δικαιώματος· κατέστησε κυβέρνησιν μεταχειριζόμενον δόλους καὶ ἀπάτας παρανόμους περὶ τὸ ἐκλογικὸν δικαίωμα, οὕτω δὲ παρέδωκε μεγάλην πολιτείαν ταῖς ἀχαλινώτοις ὁρμαῖς ἀληθοῦς ὀχλοκρατίας. Συνάμα δὲ τὴν ἐκλογικὴν ψῆφον τῆς πολιτείας ἔρριψε δι' ὁμοίας ἐγκληματικῆς διαγωγῆς κατὰ τοῦ στρατηγοῦ Γράντ. Ὁ λαὸς οὕτως οὐ μόνον ἐστερήθη τοῦ ἐκλογικοῦ αὐτοῦ δικαιώματος, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐπ' ἐνόματι αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο χρῆσις τῆς ψήφου ἐναντία πρὸς τὴν ἀπόφασιν αὐτοῦ. Οἱ συνωμόται οὗτοι περιεσύλησαν τὸν λαὸν τοῦ ἄστεος τῆς Νέας Ὑόρκης κλέψαντες ταῖς ἰδίαις αὐτῶν χερσὶν ἀναφανδὸν πλείονα

τῶν εἴκοσιν ἑκατομμυρίων ταλλήρων κατὰ τὰ τρία τελευταῖα ἔτη. Ἡ ἀπόδειξις τοῦ ἐγκλήματος εἶναι ἀδιαφιλονείκητος καὶ οὐδεὶς ὑπολείπεται περὶ αὐτοῦ ἐνδοιασμός. Ἡ αὐθάδης καὶ καταπληκτικὴ αὐτῶν ἁρπαγὴ ἀπεκαλύφθη· τὸ δημόσιον φρόνημα σφόδρα δεινωθὲν περιέστη εἰς ἀνυπέρβλητον ἀγανακτήσεως βαθμόν. Ἡ ἀπόφασις πρὸς ἀνατροπὴν καὶ τιμωρίαν τῶν κακούργων ἐκηρύχθη δημοσίᾳ. Αἱ ἐκλογαὶ τῆς 7ης τοῦ μηνὸς τούτου ἐνέπηξαν στερρῶς τοὺς ἥλους ἐπὶ τοῦ φερέτρου τοῦ Tammany. Σπανίως εἰδέ ποτε χώρα ἄλλη τοιαύτην περιφανῆ τοῦ λαοῦ ἐξέγερσιν. Οἱ Ῥεπουβλικάνοι καὶ οἱ Μεταρρυθμισταὶ ἐκ τῆς Δημοκρατικῆς μερίδος ἀναφαίνονται ὑπέρτεροι ἐν ταῖς ἐκλογαῖς ταῖς κατὰ τὴν πόλιν τῆς Νέας Ὑόρκης, ἐν ᾗ μέχρι τοῦδε ἐπλειοψήφει ἡ δημοκρατικὴ μερὶς κατὰ ψήφους 40,000 μέχρι 50,000, ὑπερβαλόντες κατὰ 20,000 ψήφους καὶ ἐπέκεινα. Οἱ Ῥεπουβλικάνοι ἐκλέγουσι τοὺς τῆς Πολιτείας ἄρχοντας νῦν ἤδη τὸ πρῶτον ἀπὸ τοῦ 1866 διὰ πλειοψηφίας ὑπερβαινούσης τὰς 20,000 ψήφων. Κατὰ ταύτην τὴν μεταξὺ περίοδον, ἤτοι ἀπὸ τοῦ 1866 μέχρι σήμερον, τὸ Tammany διὰ τῆς ληστρικῆς αὐτοῦ παλάμης ἔσφιγγε τὸν λαιμὸν τοῦ λαοῦ. Οὗτος, λοιπόν, εἶναι θρίαμβος πρὸς ὃν παραβαλλομένη ἁπλῆ κομματικὴ ἐπιτυχία φαίνεται ἄσημος. Εἶναι ὁ θρίαμβος τῶν ἐλευθέρων θεσμῶν κατὰ τοῦ δόλου καὶ τῆς ληστείας. Εἶναι ἡ ἐκρίζωσις τοῦ μάλιστα ἐπικινδύνου τῶν κακῶν, καθ' ὧν πώποτε ἡ Δημοκρατία ἐπάλαισεν· εἶναι ἡ ἱκανοποίησις τῆς ἀκεραιότητος τῆς κάλπης, ἥτις ὑπάρχει τὸ παλλάδιον τῶν ἐλευθεριῶν τῆς Ἀμερικῆς· εἶναι ἡ θριαμβευτικὴ διαβεβαίωσις τῆς ἀρχῆς ὅτι ἡ κυριαρχία τοῦ λαοῦ ἐν Ἀμερικῇ παρέχει ἱκανὰ ἐγγύα πρὸς συντήρησιν τῆς τάξεως καὶ ἐλευθερίας, καὶ τὴν ἐκρίζωσιν τῆς καταχρήσεως καὶ τῆς ἐγκληματικῆς συνωμοσίας κατὰ τῆς Πολιτείας. Σήμερον δὲ εὐχαριστοῦμεν τῷ Θεῷ διὰ τὴν εἰρηνικὴν ταύτην νίκην ἣν τὸ δίκαιον ἤρατο καὶ ἥτις μεγάλως θέλει συντελέσει πρὸς ἐξάγνισιν τοῦ ὅλου πολιτικοῦ συστήματος τῆς προσφιλοῦς ἡμῶν χώρας.

Φίλοι μου, μεγάλαι συμφοραί, ὡς γνωρίζετε, ἐπέσκηψαν ἐσχάτως εἴς τινα σπουδαία τῶν Ἡνωμένων Πολιτειῶν μέλη· ἀλλὰ καὶ αὗται παρέσχον ἡμῖν ἀντίρροπόν τινα ὠφέλειαν ἐξεγείρασαι τὸ συμπαθὲς φρόνημα τῶν καρδιῶν τοῦ λαοῦ ἡμῶν καὶ τῶν λαῶν τῶν ξένων χωρῶν ὡσαύτως, καὶ πρὸς ἔνδοξα ἔργα φιλανθρωπίας ἐποτρύνασαι. Τὸ μάθημα θὰ ὑπάρξῃ ἀνυσιμώτατον διδάσκον τοὺς ἀνθρώπους νὰ ἀποδέχωνται τὴν ὑπερτάτην ἱκανοποίησιν ἐκ τῆς ἀγαθοποιΐας, καὶ ἐμπνέον εὐγενεῖς ἐπιθυμίας καὶ πόθους ἐκεῖ ὅπου τὸ ποταπὸν τῆς φιλαυτίας αἴσθημα ἐδέσποζεν. Ἂς ἤμεθα εὐχαριστημένοι ἐπὶ τῇ μεγάλῃ ταύτῃ ἀποδείξει τῆς εὐημερίας τοῦ κόσμου, καὶ διὰ τὸ εὐγενὲς μάθημα ὅπερ διδάσκει καὶ αὐτὴ ἡ στυγνὴ συμφορά.

Εὐχαριστήσωμεν οὖν τῷ Κυρίῳ ἐπὶ τῇ ἀγαθῇ κληρονομίᾳ τῆς ἐλευθέρας καὶ πεφωτισμένης Ἀμερικῆς· ἐπὶ τῷ χριστιανικῷ πολιτισμῷ ὅστις βαθέως εἶναι ἐρριζωμένος ἐν τῷ ἡμετέρῳ Ἀμερικανικῷ ἐδάφει· ἐπὶ ταῖς ἀνεξαντλήτοις πηγαῖς πλούτου τῆς ἡμετέρας χώρας, αἵτινες καὶ τοῖς πτωχοτάτοις παρέχουσι πόρους εἰς παρασκευὴν οὐ μόνον βίου ἀνέτου, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἐντίμου ἀρθονίας, ὅταν ὑγιεῖς ἔχοντες βραχίονας σωφρόνως πρὸς βιομηχανίαν τρέπωνται. Εὐχαριστήσωμεν Αὐτῷ διὰ τὰς μακαρισμοῦ ἀξίας προνομίας τῶν τοῖς πᾶσι ἐλευθέρων σχολείων ἡμῶν καὶ διὰ τὰς τρισμακαρίστους ἡμῶν εὐκαιρίας καὶ ἐλευθερίας, αἵτινες ἀναγνωρίζουσι τὸ κράτος τῆς συνειδήσεως καὶ τῆς ἀτομικῆς ἐκλογῆς καὶ παρορμῶσιν ὅσον οἷόν τε πλεῖστον πρὸς ἀνάπτυξιν τοῦ ἀληθοῦς χριστιανικοῦ χαρακτῆρος.

Δυνάμεθα ἐπίσης κατὰ τὴν περίστασιν ταύτην νὰ ἐκφράσωμεν μετὰ πολλοῦ σεβασμοῦ τὴν ἡμετέραν εὐγνωμοσύνην διὰ τὴν Ἐθνικὴν ταύτην ἡμέραν Εὐχαριστίας τῶν Ἡνωμένων Πολιτειῶν. Πρὸ τοῦ ἐμφυλίου πολέμου ἑκάστη Πολιτεία ὥριζεν ἰδίαν ἡμέραν εὐχαριστίας. Συνέβαινε δ' ἐνίοτε αἱ ἀρχαὶ Πολιτείας τινὸς νὰ παραλείπωσιν ἐντελῶς τὸ καθῆκον τοῦτο. Ἤδη ἡ ἡμέρα αὕτη κατέ-

στη ἐθνικὴ ἐκ τῆς Προκηρύξεως τοῦ Προέδρου, καὶ οἱ Διοικηταὶ τῶν Πολιτειῶν ἐκδίδουσι τὰς πρὸς ἀπονομὴν Εὐχαριστίας προκηρύξεις αὐτῶν ἑπόμενοι τῇ τοῦ Προέδρου προκηρύξει, οὕτω δὲ μία καὶ ἡ αὐτὴ ἡμέρα εὑρίσκεται τεταγμένη ἐπὶ τῷ σκοπῷ τούτῳ καθ' ἁπάσας τὰς Ἡνωμένας Πολιτείας. Τοῦτο δὲ συνενοῖ ὁλόκληρον ἡμῶν τὸν λαόν· ἐγείρει ἐν αὐτῷ τὸ θρησκευτικὸν αἴσθημα πρὸς ἑδραίωσιν τῆς ἐθνικῆς ἀλληλεγγύης· συνάπτει ἡμᾶς ὡς ἓν ὅλον Ἡνωμένον ἔθνος ἀντὶ κεχωρισμένων μερῶν. Καθήκει δὲ καὶ εἰς τοὺς ἐν ἀφεστώσαις ξέναις χώραις Ἀμερικανικοὺς κύκλους, ἐν οἷς διάφοροι πολιτεῖαι ἀντιπροσωπεύονται ὡς ἐν τῷ ἐνταῦθα μικρῷ ἡμῶν κύκλῳ σήμερον. Οὕτω βλέπομεν ὅτι ἡ κραταιὰ ἐκείνη θρησκευτικὴ ἐπιῤῥοή, ἥτις παράγεται ἐκ τῆς τηρήσεως τῆς ἡμέρας ταύτης, τείνει πρὸς ἐμπέδωσιν τῶν δεσμῶν τῆς ἐθνικῆς ἡμῶν Ἑνότητος. Βεβαίως αὕτη εἶναι μία τῶν μάλιστα σπουδαίων ἀποζημιώσεων τοῦ αἱματηροῦ ἡμῶν ἐμφυλίου ἀγῶνος. Ἐν ἡμέρᾳ οἵα ἡ παροῦσα ἕκαστος ἡμῶν ἐμπνεόμενος ἀναφωνεῖ μετὰ τοῦ ἡμετέρου Whittier·

«Land of the forest and the rock,
Of dark blue lake and mighty river,
Of mountains reared aloft to mock
The storm's career, the lightnings shock,
My own dear land forever!»

«Γῆ δρυμώνων καὶ ἀποῤῥώγων,—Λιμνῶν κυανοχρόων, ῥείθρων κραταιῶν,—Ὀρέων ὧν τὸ ὕψος σκώπτει—Τῆς θυέλλης τὴν πτέρναν, τῆς στεροπῆς τὸ κράτος—Ἀγαπητή μου γῆ, εἰς τὸν πάντα χρόνον ἔσῃ μοι ἀγαπητή!»—

Ἀλλ' ἐνῷ τὰς ἡμετέρας σκέψεις σήμερον τόσον πολὺ κατέχουσιν αἱ εὐφρόσυνοι ἡμῶν ἐν Ἀμερικῇ ἑστίαι καὶ οἱ ποθητοὶ φίλοι, οἷς τὴν στιγμὴν ταύτην ἐπικοινωνοῦμεν διὰ πνεύματος διαπύρου ἀγάπης, μὴ ἐπιλαθώμεθα τοῦ ἀρχαίου κόσμου μετὰ τῶν συμπεπυκνωμένων αὐτοῦ ἑκατοστύων μυριάδων ἀνθρωπίνων ὀν-

των, μεθ' ὧν ἑνούμεθα ὡς μέλη τῆς κοινῆς μεγάλης τοῦ ἀνθρώπου οἰκογενείας. Συνταυτιζόμεθα ὡς τέκνα ἑνὸς καὶ τοῦ αὐτοῦ Πατρός, τοῦ Πατρὸς τῶν Ὅλων. Μέγα ἔχομεν διαφέρον ἐν τῇ εὐημερίᾳ αὐτῶν, οἱ πλεῖστοι δὲ τῶν ἐνταῦθα συνελθόντων σήμερον κατέλιπον τὰς τερπνὰς αὐτῶν ἐν Ἀμερικῇ ἑστίας, ἔνθα ἄνετον διῆγον βίον, ὅπως ἐργασθῶσιν ὑπὲρ τῆς εὐημερίας τοῦ λαοῦ τούτου. Ἂς ἥμεθα ἐπιεικεῖς πρὸς τὰ σφάλματα, ἃς ἐκτιμῶμεν δὲ πάντοτε τὰς ἀρετὰς αὐτοῦ. Ἂς ἀναπολῶμεν εἰς τὸν νοῦν ὅτι ὁ ἡμέτερος πολιτισμός, ὡς καὶ τοῦ λοιποῦ κόσμου, ἔλαβε τὸ ζώπυρον αὐτοῦ ἐκ ταύτης τῆς κλασικῆς γῆς·

«When man would do a deed of worth
He points to Greece, and turns to tread,
So sanction'd, on the tyrant's head:
He looks to her, and rushes on
Where life is lost, or freedon won.»

«Ὅταν πρὸς ἔργον μέγα ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁρμᾷ—Πρὸς τὴν Ἑλλάδα στρέφει, Ἐμπρὸς ὅπως ἀκούσῃ — Πρὶν ἢ μὲ πτέρναν εὔτολμον τὸν τύραννον συντρίψῃ.— Πρὸς τὴν Ἑλλάδα στρέφει, καὶ ὁρμᾷ— Ὅπου ἐλευθερία ἢ θάνατος αὐτὸν θ' ἀναμένῃ.»—

Μὴ ἀμνημονήσητε ὅτι ἡ συμπύκνωσις τοῦ πληθυσμοῦ παρακωλύει τὴν ἀνάπτυξιν καὶ τὴν πρόοδον· περιωρισμένα δὲ μέσα φυσικῶς παρεμποδίζουσι τὴν πρόοδον, ἐνῷ ὁ νόμος τοῦ αὐξάνοντος πληθυσμοῦ ἐλαττοῖ τὰς πρὸς ἀνάπτυξιν ἀτομικὰς εὐκαιρίας. Τὸ γεγονὸς τοῦτο δὲν δύναται ν' ἀλλοιωθῇ ὑπὸ πολιτευμάτων, καθὰ φανερὸν ἡμῖν καθιστᾷ ἡ Ἑλβετία, ἧς τὸ πολιτικὸν σύστημα εἶναι δημοκρατικώτερον τοῦ ἡμετέρου· καὶ ὅμως τὰ συμπεπυκνωμένα καὶ κοπιῶντα πλήθη τῆς χώρας ἐκείνης, ἣν περικοσμεῖ ἐξαισία φυσικὴ καλλονὴ καὶ ἱστορικὸν μεγαλεῖον, συνέχονται ὑπὸ πενίας· ἡ γῆ δὲν παρέχει αὐτοῖς τοὺς πρὸς βελτίωσιν πόρους, κατὰ λόγον οἰκονομικόν. Ὑπάρχουσιν ἐν τῷ ἀρχαίῳ κόσμῳ εἴδη κυβερνήσεως διάφορα τοῦ ἡμετέρου. Λέγομεν ὅτι τὸ Δημοκρατικὸν

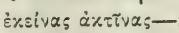
ἡμῶν σύστημα ἁρμόζει κάλλιστα ταῖς Ἡνωμέναις Πολιτείαις· ἀλλ' ἠθέλομεν φανῆ ἀλαζόνες, ἐὰν ἐπεχειροῦμεν νὰ βεβαιώσωμεν μετὰ τῆς αὐτῆς ἀποφάνσεως, ὅτι ὅμοιοι θεσμοὶ ἤθελον εὐδοκιμήσει καὶ ἐνταῦθα ἐπίσης. Αἱ περιστάσεις καὶ ἡ κατάστασις τοῦ λαοῦ πρέπει ν' ἀποφασίζωσι ποῖον εἶναι τὸ ἄριστον εἶδος κυβερνήσεως δι' αὐτόν. Τὸ πνεῦμα τῆς πεφωτισμένης ἐλευθερίας χωρεῖ γοργῷ τῷ βήματι. Διαφέρον πρὸς ἐκπαίδευσιν ἀναπτύσσεται, καὶ καθ' ἑκάστην ἐπὶ μᾶλλον καὶ μᾶλλον πολλαπλασιάζονται αἱ εὐκολίαι πρὸς ἐλευθέραν ἐκπαίδευσιν τοῦ πλήθους. Τοῦτο εἶναι ἀληθὲς ὡς πρός τε τὴν Ἑλλάδα καὶ ἄλλα βασίλεια· τὸ δὲ καθολικὸν τοῦτο γεγονὸς ὡς πρὸς ἅπασαν σχεδὸν τὴν Εὐρώπην μέγα θάρρος καὶ χρηστὰς ἐλπίδας ἐμποιεῖ τοῖς φίλοις τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος. Καθόσον ὁ λαὸς ἐκπαιδεύεται προσηκόντως, κατὰ τοσοῦτον θέλει προβαίνει ἐν τῇ ἐθνικῇ καὶ ἀτομικῇ εὐημερίᾳ.

Δὲν ἔχω τὴν οἴησιν ὅτι δύναμαι νὰ διαφωτίσω ὑμᾶς ὡς πρὸς τὰ πράγματα τοῦ βασιλείου τούτου· ἑπομένως οὐδὲ θέλω ἐπιχειρήσει τοιοῦτόν τι. Περὶ τοῦ ὑποκειμένου τούτου ἀτενίζω πρὸς ὑμᾶς, ὅπως μὲ φωτίσητε. Δύναμαι ὅμως νὰ εἴπω τοῦτο, ὅτι ἡ γῆ αὕτη εἶναι ἱερὰ πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἕνεκα τῆς κλασικῆς αὐτῆς ἱστορίας καὶ τῶν ὑψηλῶν αὐτῆς παραδόσεων. Ἡμεῖς ὡς Ἀμερικανοὶ χαίρομεν ἐπὶ παντὶ ἔργῳ δι' οὗ πειρᾶται ἡ κυβέρνησις αὐτῆς νὰ προαγάγῃ εἰς ἀνδρότητα τὸν λαόν, ἐμπνεύσῃ αὐτῷ τὸ πνεῦμα τῆς προόδου, ἐνστάξῃ ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτοῦ τὸ αἴσθημα τῆς ἀληθοῦς ἐθνικότητος, τῆς σώφρονος ἐλευθερίας καὶ τοῦ γενναίου, πεφωτισμένου πατριωτισμοῦ. Αὕτη δὲν εἶναι ἡ ἀρχαία Ἑλλάς, ἄν τις εἰς τὴν ἔκτασιν αὐτῆς ἀποβλέψῃ· περιωρίσθη καὶ ἐντὸς λίαν στενῶν ὁρίων περιεκλείσθη. Ἀλλ' ἡ Ἑλλὰς οἵαν βλέπομεν αὐτὴν σήμερον ἔχει μεγάλας εὐκαιρίας πρὸς πρόοδον ἐν τῇ γεωργίᾳ καὶ ταῖς βιωτικαῖς τέχναις, καὶ δύναται κατ' ὀλίγον διὰ καταλλήλου βιομηχανικῆς ἐνεργείας νὰ παρασκευάσῃ ἑαυτῇ ὅ,τι τόσον χρόνον ἀπώλεσεν ἐκ τῆς ὀλεθρίας ἐκβάσεως πολέμων. Λέγω λοιπόν, ἐγ-

καρδιώσατε τὸν λαὸν τοῦτον ἀντὶ νὰ ὑβρίζητε αὐτόν· περὶ τῶν σφαλμάτων ὑπομιμνήσκετε αὐτὸν ἐν πνεύματι ἀγάπης καὶ ἀληθοῦς φιλίας· ἐντυπώσατε ἐπὶ τοῦ πνεύματος αὐτοῦ τὴν ἀξίαν καὶ τὴν ἀνάγκην τῆς ἐπιμόνου καὶ καλῶς διευθυνομένης ἐργασίας· διδάσκετε αὐτὸν τὴν ἀληθῆ ὁδὸν τῆς ἀτομικῆς καὶ ἐθνικῆς προόδου. Τὸ πολίτευμα αὐτοῦ εἶναι ἐλεύθερον κατὰ τὸν τύπον, ἀλλ' ἰδίως ἐλεύθερον κατὰ τὸ πνεῦμα· ἡ φωνὴ ἣν ἀφίησι πλάττει αὐτὸ κατ' ἰδίαν ἀρέσκειαν. Σταθερότης σκοποῦ, γαλήνιος καὶ πεφωτισμένη κρίσις θέλει παγιώσει τοὺς θεσμοὺς αὐτῶν καὶ ἀσφαλῆ αὐτοῖς καταστήσει δικαίαν καὶ διαρκῆ πολιτικὴν πρὸς ἐθνικὴν πρόοδον. Ἐκφράσωμεν σήμερον τὴν ἡμετέραν ἀγάπην καὶ ἀναπέμψωμεν τὰς δεήσεις ἡμῶν ὑπὲρ τῆς κλασικῆς ταύτης χώρας, ἧς τὰ μεγαλοπρεπῆ ἐρείπια λαλοῦσιν ἡμῖν περί τε τοῦ ἀρχαίου καὶ τοῦ μέλλοντος αὐτῆς μεγαλείου. Εὐξώμεθα ὅπως ὁ λαὸς αὐτῆς δυνηθῇ νὰ ὑπερνικήσῃ πάσας τὰς δυσκολίας τὰς παρακωλυούσας τὴν πρὸς τὸ εὖ πράττειν πρόοδον αὐτοῦ, καὶ δι' ἡρωϊκῶν ἀγώνων ὑφηγουμένης τῆς φρονήσεως καὶ δικαιοσύνης ἀποδειχθῶσιν ἄξιοι υἱοὶ περικλεῶν πατέρων, μηδέποτε στρέφοντες πρὸς τὰ ὀπίσω τὸ βλέμμα πλὴν μόνον ὅπως ἐμπνευσθῶσιν ἐκ τῆς ἐνδόξου αὐτῶν ἱστορίας, ἀλλ' ἐξακολουθοῦντες τὴν πρὸς τὰ πρόσω πορείαν αὐτῶν

«Till petter days
Dawn in those yet remembered rays
Which shone upon the Persian flying,
And saw the Spartan smile in dying.»

«Μέχρις οὗ καλλίτεραι ἡμέραι — Ἀνατείλωσι φέρουσαι τὰς ἀειμνήστους ἐκείνας ἀκτῖνας—Αἱ ὁποῖαι ὑπῆρξαν μάρτυρες τῆς φυγῆς τοῦ Πέρσου—Καὶ ἔλαμψαν ἐπὶ τῆς μειδιώσης ὄψεως τοῦ θνήσκοντος Σπαρτιάτου.»



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